

Spill Summary Report for NRC Report #1267171

Report Date: 3/31/2020

Report Time: 1:20 PM EDT

Region III Hotline Log Entry Information

Data ID: 2609284			
Date Of Report: 2019-12-23T12:17:00-05:00	NRC #: 1267171	State #: 02-97942	ERNS #:
Material Type: Haz		Receiver: Bartos	
Material / Amount:	CHLORINE (0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT);		
Location:	Street: 500 EAST JOHN ST City: MARTINSBURG County: BERKELEY State: WV Latitude: 39.45135592270119 Longitude: -77.95312549273419		
Source of Pollution:			
Water Body:			
State Or EPA Responded:	Other Fed/State/Local Agency Responded		
Initial EPA Action:	EPA DO reviewed report. DEP has report and deployed responders. Spoke to on scene responders (with county) Release is caused by accidental mixing of Ferric Chloride and Sodium Hypochloride (potentially Hypochlorite). Release cause a chlorine cloud over the city with evacuations. Monitoring ongoing and reaction is ongoing. Contractor is deployed to neutralize reaction but won't be there until approx 1500. EPA OSC Nilsen deployed to scene with START contractor to aid in monitoring.		
Status:	2 - Closed		
URL:			

Associated Action Reports

DataID: 1252776

Date: 2019-12-23T05:00:00-05:00	Time: 15:20:49	
Duty Officer/Responder Name: Myles Bartos	NRC Report #: 1267171	Hotline Log DataID: 2609284
Action Information		
Description: EPA DO contacted local responders to notify of EPA's deployment (OSC Nilsen and START contractor) and facilitate introductions. The contractor to conduct the neutralization is expected by approx 1500 (OSC Nilsen ETA is 1515). Based on reported volumes, it is expected to take 4-5 hrs. At this time, this is believed to be an accidental incident. (b) (7)(A)		
Follup-Up:		
Person Contacted		
Name: Randy Lilly Organization: local response Phone #:		

Associated Regional Spot Reports

DataID: 0007194

Date: 2019-12-23T05:00:00-05:00	Watch Officer: Myles Bartos
Event Title: OSC deployment to WV waste water treatment chlorine release	Media Interest: Low
Report Information	
Overview: EPA Region 3 received a FEMA Watch Report indicating a chemical reaction has occurred at the Martinsburg WV Wastewater Treatment Plant causing a large chemical cloud in the area. NRC Report 1267171 was eventually submitted. A mandatory ½ mile evacuation area has been ordered. The Region 3 Duty Officer has been in contact with the Local Emergency Management Services (LEMS) and WVDEP. The facility has a 4200 gallon tank of Sodium Hypochloride. There is some discussion that it should be Hypochlorite but those on-scene appear to be sure it is hypochloride. A delivery truck added Ferric Chloride to the tank (quantity unknown) which started a chemical reaction causing the chemical cloud. The chemical cloud was over most of the city. Dupont is en route to help neutralize the chemical reaction and until they arrive the chemical reaction will most likely continue. The company that caused the reaction has indicated they will hire a contractor to do the neutralization. They're expected ETA is 3:00 pm. Based on reported volumes, it's expected that the process will take 4-5 hours to neutralize. If the reaction was left to stop on its own, it could take 24-36 hours. LEMS indicates the situation is currently under control and the chemicals are contained within a tank, but the evacuation will remain in place until further analysis can be completed to confirm the dispersal of the chemical and that the area is safe to enter. The Governor of West Virginia has ordered West Virginia's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to Partial Activation. WVDEP is en route to the scene. EPA OSC Ashley Nilsen is also en route with our START contracts.	
State, Local and other Federal Agency WV DEP deployed. Actions: County deployed.	
EPA Actions: EPA Region 3 received a FEMA Watch Report indicating a chemical reaction has occurred at the Martinsburg WV Wastewater Treatment Plant causing a large chemical cloud in the area. NRC Report 1267171 was eventually submitted. A mandatory ½ mile evacuation area has been ordered. The Region 3 Duty Officer has been in contact with the Local Emergency Management Services (LEMS) and WVDEP. The facility has a 4200 gallon tank of Sodium Hypochloride. There is some discussion that it should be Hypochlorite but those on-scene appear to be sure it is hypochloride. A delivery truck added Ferric Chloride to the tank (quantity unknown) which started a chemical reaction causing the chemical cloud. The chemical cloud was over most of the city. Dupont is en route to help neutralize the chemical reaction and until they arrive the chemical reaction will most likely continue. The company that caused the reaction has indicated they will hire a contractor to do the neutralization. They're expected ETA is 3:00 pm. Based on reported volumes, it's expected that the process will take 4-5 hours to neutralize. If the reaction was left to stop on its own, it could take 24-36 hours. LEMS indicates the situation is currently under control and the chemicals are contained within a tank, but the evacuation will remain in place until further analysis can be completed to confirm the dispersal of the chemical and that the area is safe to enter. The Governor of West Virginia has ordered West Virginia's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to Partial Activation. WVDEP is en route to the scene. EPA OSC Ashley Nilsen is also en route with our START contracts.	
Notes:	

DataID: 0007200

Date: 2019-12-24T05:00:00-05:00	Watch Officer: Dominic Ventura
Event Title: Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemical Reaction and Evacuation, Matinsburg, WV	Media Interest: Medium
Report Information	
<p>Overview: EPA Region 3 OSC reported that small scale neutralization began at about 1900 on 12/23 and the additional sodium hydroxide arrived later. Full scale neutralization was done using 3 separate tanks and completed at about 0430 12/24. Perimeter air monitoring occurred from 1730 12/23 through out the entire neutralization process. The vapors from the tank were pulled through the scrubbing/neutralization process and at 0500 are opening the manway lid on the tank to begin washing the tank. The entire process is anticipated to be completed at 0530. Perimeter air monitoring has been completed and there is no further EPA assistance needed. The evacuation order will be lifted for the 1/2 mile around the facility.</p>	
<p>State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: WVDEP and Berkeley County officials responded.</p>	
<p>EPA Actions: EPA OSC coordinated with State and County officials and conducted perimeter air monitoring.</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

DataID: 0007203

Date: 2019-12-24T05:00:00-05:00	Watch Officer: Dominic Ventura
Event Title: Final Spot Report - Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemical Reaction with Evacuation, Martinsburg, WV	Media Interest: Medium
Report Information	
<p>Overview: This will be the final spot report. Berkeley County issued this message lifting the evacuation order on their facebook page at approximately 0630.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: The evacuation for the .5 mile radius surrounding the Sewage Treatment Plant 500 E. John St has been lifted, all streets are open, and everyone is free to return to their home. Please proceed back to the area in an orderly fashion. Thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this process.</p> <p>Upon returning home: If you smell unknown odors upon entry open doors and windows to allow air flow and the dissipation of odors. If you have fans turn those on to facilitate the flow of air.</p> <p>Fire & Police units will be stationed in various neighborhoods to assist residents. If you have issues upon returning home, or relative questions, please proceed to a nearby First Response Unit for assistance.</p>	
<p>State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: See previous spot reports.</p>	
<p>EPA Actions: See previous spot reports</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

Associated HQ Spot Reports

DataID: 0007199

Date: 2019-12-24T05:00:00-05:00	Watch Officer: Roger Fernandez
Event Title: Update #2: Region 3, OSC deployment to WV waste water treatment chlorine release	Media Interest: Medium
Report Information	
<p>Overview: On the morning of 12/23/2019, EPA Region 3 received a FEMA Watch Report indicating a chemical reaction occurred at the Martinsburg WV wastewater treatment plant causing a large chemical cloud in the area. A delivery truck added ferric chloride to the hypochloride tank (quantity unknown) which started a chemical reaction causing the chemical cloud. The chemical cloud was over most of the city. EPA Region 3 OSC reported that small scale neutralization began at about 1900 on 12/23/2019; full scale neutralization was completed at about 04:30 AM 12/24/2019.</p> <p>The morning of 12/23/2019, a mandatory ½ mile evacuation area was ordered and as of the morning of 12/24/2019, it has been lifted. Residents have been instructed that if unknown odors are detected, to open doors and windows to allow air flow and the dissipation of odors.</p> <p>Perimeter air monitoring commenced from 5:30 PM 12/23/2019 and was maintained for the entire neutralization process. Perimeter air monitoring has been completed.</p>	
<p>State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Martinsburg Fire and Police are on-scene to assist residents as needed.</p>	
<p>EPA Actions: EPA assistance is no longer needed.</p>	
<p>Notes:</p>	

HQ Hotline Log Entry Information

Data ID: 2609283			
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Material Type:	Receiver:		
Material / Amount:	CHLORINE (0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT);		
Location:	Street: 500 EAST JOHN ST City: MARTINSBURG County: BERKELEY State: WV Latitude: Longitude:		
Source of Pollution:			
Water Body:			
State Or EPA Responded:			
Initial EPA Action:			

NRC Spill Report

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802
GOVERNMENT USE ONLYGOVERNMENT USE ONLY***
Information released to a third party shall comply with any
applicable federal and/or state Freedom of Information and Privacy Laws

Incident Report # 1267171

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

*Report taken by NRC at 12:17 on 23-DEC-19
Incident Type: FIXED
Incident Cause: UNKNOWN
Affected Area:
Incident occurred on 23-DEC-19 at 08:30 local incident time.
Affected Medium: AIR

REPORTING PARTY

Name: SCOTT HEATH
Organization: UNIVAR USA
Address: 5 STEEL ROAD E
MORRISVILLE, PA 19067
Email Address: scott.heath@univar.com

PRIMARY Phone: (484)6618434
Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name: UNKNOWN
Organization:

Type of Organization: UNKNOWN

INCIDENT LOCATION

500 EAST JOHN ST County: BERKELEY
City: MARTINSBURG State: WV
MARTINBURG WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: CLX Official Material Name: CHLORINE
Also Known As:
Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER REPORTING THAT DURING THE DELIVERY OF FERRIC CHLORIDE THE HOSE WAS
MISTAKENLY CONNECTED TO THE BLEACH TANK. APPROXIMATELY 600 GALLONS OF FERRIC
CHLORIDE WAS THEN MIXED WITH THE BLEACH CAUSING A REACTION AND THE RELEASE OF
CHLORINE GAS.

FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS ORDERED AN EVACUATION OF EVERYONE IN A HALF MILE RADIUS AND TWO
EMPLOYEES WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL AS A PRECAUTION FOR RESPIRATORY ISSUES.

INCIDENT DETAILS

Package: N/A
Building ID:
Type of Fixed Object: SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY
Power Generating Facility: UNKNOWN
Generating Capacity:
Type of Fuel:
NPDES:
NPDES Compliance: UNKNOWN

IMPACT

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN
INJURIES: YES 2 Sent to Hospital: 2 Empl/Crew: 0 Passenger: 0
FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:
EVACUATIONS: YES Who Evacuated: EVERYONE Radius/Area: .5 Mile(s)
Damages: UNKNOWN

Closure Type	Description of Closure	Hours Closed	Direction of Closure
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Air: NO
Road: YES SEVERAL ROADS 4 Major Artery: NO
Waterway: NO
Track: NO
Passengers Transferred: NO
Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN
Media Interest: MEDIUM Community Impact due to Material:

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

CLEAN UP CREW ENROUTE, CONTRACTOR HAS BEEN HIRED
Release Secured: NO
Release Rate:
Estimated Release Duration: 4 HOUR

WEATHER

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:
State/Local: WVDEP
State/Local On Scene: FIRST RESPONDERS AND HAZMAT
State Agency Number: 02-97942

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

AGCY TOXIC SUBST & DISEASE REGISTRY (HHS)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (770)4883430
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (GRASP)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (770)4887100
CG INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE BALTIMORE (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (410)5762555
CHEM SAFETY AND HAZARD INVEST BOARD (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:37 (202) NO VERBAL
CHEM SAFETY AND HAZARD INVEST BOARD (CSB AUTOMATIC NOTIFICATIONS)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)3780334
DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (SECRETARY'S OPERATION CENTER (SOC))
23-DEC-19 12:36
AZ OFFIC OF INTEL AND ANALYSIS (FIELD INTELLIGENCE AND INTEGRATION DIVISION)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (480)3752552
DHS DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES DEPARTMENT)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (703)7673477
DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)3661863
DOT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (OFFICE OF INVESTIGATORS)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)3660339
EPA HQ EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (MAIN OFFICE (VERBAL))
23-DEC-19 12:39 (202)5643850 FERNANDEZ
U.S. EPA III (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:40 (215)8143255 BARTOS
INTERSTATE COMM FOR POTOMAC RIVER (SPILL MODELING DIVISION)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (301)9841908
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)2829201
NOAA RPTS FOR WV (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (206)5264911
NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER HQ (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36
NTSB PIPELINE (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)3146293
PIPELINE & HAZMAT SAFETY ADMIN (HAZARDOUS MATERIAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (202)3664031
REPORTING PARTY (RP SUBMITTER)
23-DEC-19 12:36
SECTOR OHIO VALLEY (COMMAND CENTER)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (502)7795424
OFFICE OF ENV. POLICY & COMPLIANCE (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (215)5975012
USCG DISTRICT 8 (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (504)5896225
WEST VIRGINIA DEP (MAIN OFFICE)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (304)5585938
WV INTELLIGENCE/FUSION CENTER (FUSION COMMAND CENTER)
23-DEC-19 12:36 (304)5584831

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RESPONSE TEAM FROM DUPONT IS EN ROUTE, ETA 1800HRS EST.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://nrc.uscg.mil>